

Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Urban District Council.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health 1905

Gentlemen

I have again much pleasure in presenting to you an annual report, inasmuch as my figures and statements generally are even more favourable with regard to the health of the district than those of last year.

Taking into consideration the facts that the population is practically an entirely working class one — that Eastleigh is comparatively densely populated — and that I have no means of isolating cases of infectious disease except in the cottages in which they occur, we may I imagine truly say that we are phenomenally healthy.

The population is now estimated at 11,000 and is increasing.

The number of infectious diseases notified to me during the year is 23. Twelve of these cases diphtheria, five of erysipelas and six of scarlet fever. I supplied antitoxin in eight of the diphtheria cases with excellent results when the serum was administered early in the course of the disease. The scarlet fever cases which we have been getting are apparently of a very mild and slightly infectious type and careful isolation in one room has proved efficacious so far in preventing spread of disease.

I am however, compelled at times to keep fathers or brothers living in these infected houses from their work, and this is a great hardship

to some families - the bread winners thus being entirely cut off from earning the wherewithal to keep themselves and their families from hardship and sometimes severe want. I should be glad if some measures could be taken to give compensation in these cases to those who in the interests of the community are compulsorily prevented from earning their daily bread.

The sewage system is working well - and the sewage farm, now that the growing of vegetables has been to a great extent discontinued is working satisfactorily, the ground being constantly and regularly turned up and kept clean and aerated. When the screens now under consideration are in working order, and the main portion of the solids kept off the land, we shall I think have a perfectly satisfactory result.

The SouthANTS Water Company continue to give us a good and adequate supply of drinking water.

Slaughterhouses, dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, bakehouses, factories, workshops and dwellings of out workers have been visited and inspected in accordance with the Factories and Workshops Act.

The birth rate is 27.5; the death rate 9.3 as against 10.6 for 1904. The infantile death rate per 1000 births is 86.1 as against 108.5 for 1904. This latter comparison is very important and satisfactory and I think a sign that the feeding of infants is being carried on with greater care and knowledge.

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of their requirements than in past times.

The Zymotic death rate is .7 per 1000.

I enclose the tabulated forms of sickness, births and deaths as required by the Local Government Board and also the annual report of the Sanitary Inspector who has carried out his duties most satisfactorily. I thank him most heartily for the very able way in which he has assisted me during this past year.

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

R. L. Beal Smith

Annual Report -

M.D.C.C.

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